Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 10307 070849Z ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /053 W --------077228 070856Z /13

O 070838Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8015
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL SEOUL 10307

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: SHUM, PING, KS

SUBJ: PRISONER RELEASE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: SEOUL 10275 AND PREVIOUS

1. CHUNG IL-HYUNG, MYONGDONG DEFENDEANT AND MEMBER OF DISSIDENT GROUP NEGOTIATING PRISONER RELEASE, TOLD EMBOFF DECEMBER 7 THAT TALKS WITH KCIA WERE GOING WELL. HE SAID DISSIDENT GROUP, INCLUDING BISHOP CHI, HAD COME TO INTERNAL ACCORD TO GO FORWARD WITH RELEASE OF EM-9 PRISONERS AND TAKE UP CASE OF KIM CHI-HA LATER. CHUNG SAID TEXT OF STATEMENT TO BE SIGNED WAS NOT QUITE BLAND. DISSIDENT GROUP ASKED KCIA TO CALL STATEMENTS "LETTERS OF RECONSIDERATION" INSTEAD OF "LETTERS OF REPENTANCE" AND HAD ASKED FOR DELETION OF REQUIREMENT THAT PRISONERS EXPRESS GRATITUDE FOR RELEASE, SUBSTITUTING INSTEAD PHRASE TO EFFECT THAT PRISONERS "RESPECT ROKG DECISION." CHUNG SAID HE WAS TOLD BY AN PYONG-MU THAT KCIA ACCEPTED PROPOSALS.

2. CHUNG SAID PROBLEM NOW INVOLVES CONTACT WITH PRISONERS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF DISSIDENTS. CONVINCING PRISONERS TO SIGN MAY NOT BE EASY AND MAY REQUIRE FURTHER REVISION OF TEXT OF STATEMENT WHICH IN TURN MAY OR MAY NOT BE CONFIDENTIAL

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POSSIBLE. CHUNG THOUGHT CHANCES FOR RELEASE OF PRISONERS WERE HIGH ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT INCLINED TO SPECULATE ON THE TIMING.
SNEIDER

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	Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009
INN					

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

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Control Number: n/a

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

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Subject: PRISONER RELEASE NEGOTIATIONS

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To: STATE TOKYO

Type: TE

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